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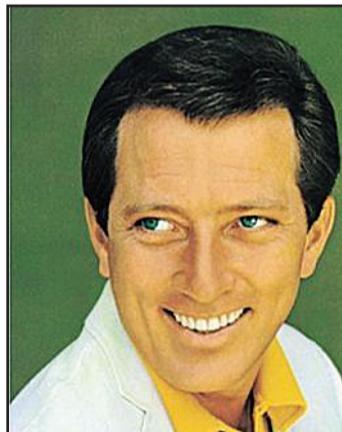
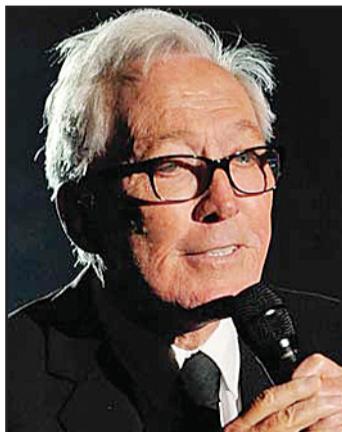
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Crooner Andy Williams, of 'Moon River' fame, dies



CHICAGO (AFP) - American crooner Andy Williams, whose string of hits like "Moon River" and annual Christmas TV shows made him a national treasure, has died aged 84 after losing his battle with cancer.

Wildly popular in the 1960s, with 18 gold and three platinum records to his name, the clean-cut master of easy listening and the sentimental soundtrack signed what at the time was the biggest US recording contract.

"Legendary singer Andy Williams passed away last night (Tuesday) at home in Branson, Missouri following a year long battle with bladder cancer, it was announced by

his family," his publicist said.

Born in Wall Lake, Iowa, a son of a railroad worker, Howard Andrew Williams sang in his family's church choir with brothers -- setting off on what was to become a 75-year professional singing career.

On his way to earning more gold albums than any other solo performer bar Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis and Elvis Presley, Williams won an Oscar for his rendition of "Moon River" in the 1961 hit film "Breakfast at Tiffany's."

Williams is survived by wife Debbie and three children Robert, Noelle and Christian, all from his first wife, French-born dancer Claudine Longet.

Island coalition announces an initiative promoting fitness in seniors



Representatives of OPPA, IBISA, YMCA, FM ta Bida



Jacqueline van Putten of IBISA

Aruba has been extremely proactive in addressing what is considered by the Minister of Public Health and Sports, Dr. Richard Visscher, the most important health issue of the day, obesity. Obesity leads to numerous chronic diseases which tax the community and health system, and several programs have been enacted, as well as international conferences conducted, to address this issue, particularly childhood obesity.

An announcement was made by a coalition of organizations on Wednesday morning, September 26, that another group is not being ignored, senior citizens. At an age when fitness is particularly crucial towards maintaining health,

many begin to abandon more demanding physical activity, settling into a sedentary lifestyle. The coalition hopes

to raise awareness and get seniors moving during the entire month of October with a busy calendar of activities that provide physical and social stimulation.

Heading the project is Gino Marchena of the Department of Social Affairs. A number of representatives from the cooperating agencies were on hand to provide a preview of some of the events planned. Organization working together on this "grassroots" movement are IBISA, the Institute of Living Healthy and Active, YMCA Aruba, OPPA, the Organization of Civil Pensioners, and Fundacion Movimiento ta Bida (Movement is Life).

Continued on page 3



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ATA submits Board of Directors' Management Regulations Manual



ORANJESTAD -- Last Monday morning President of the Supervisory Board of ATA, Jossy Lacle and ATA CEO, Ronella Tjin-Asjoe-Croes submitted to the Minister of Tourism, their newly published Board of Directors' Management Regulations Manual.

The Minister remarked that, this being tourism week, there is no better time than now to receive such a document from our tourism entity.

The Minister indicated that such a document is of utmost importance for an organization with such grave importance to have clearly defined rules of operation. Clearly defined rules as to how the organization ought to be managed on a daily basis and specifically what ought to be the role of the supervisory board and the government, is important to be have this documented, indeed.

Continued on page 4

Island coalition announces an initiative...

Continued from page 1

The foundations and centers will be offering programs of "Dance Fitness," organizing health walks and Aquarobics sessions at various venues, plus a major sport day at Jaburibari Sport Park, with soccer, track and field and other activities. Elio Heronimo, representing OPPA, explained they will provide transport for all their members to insure participation.

Statistics indicate that by the early 2020's there will be more 60-plussers than children under the age of 15 on Aruba. It is expected that seniors will make up nearly one third of Aruba's population by 2030. "In this new social reality of an ageing society, active ageing is propounded by the United Nations. The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced in the early 1990's the concept of active ageing, defining it as "the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age." This concept emphasizes the opportunity for people to fulfill their potentials for physical, social



Coordinator Marchena of the Department of Social Affairs

and mental well-being throughout the life course and to participate actively in the societal mainstream according to their desires and capabilities.

The coalition maintains that exercise programs targeting seniors need not only to be age-appropriate, but also sensitive to the social and cultural realms of the individual senior. The design of age-appropriate exercise programs must take into account the above-mentioned factors that may

cause the older adults to experience anxieties, nervousness and reluctance to partake in something possibly new and different. Consequently, the personal enjoyment of the participants and accessibility to these programs become important factors in their design. They hope to eventually see physical activities targeting the seniors are organized locally from a community-based approach and its implementation enjoys a broad support from a wide range of entities in the voluntary, public and private sectors.

For more information on the calendar of activities for October, to which all ages are invited to participate, contact the Department of Social Affairs, Tanki Leendert office, tel: 587-0657 and ask for Mrs. Ridderstad, Mrs. Leest or Ms. Willems.

Also present at Wednesday's announcement were Leo de Hartog, Anky Vrolijk of YMCA, Jacqueline van Putten of IBISA, Rudy Leysner of Movement is Life.

by Rosalie Klein

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Drug Abuse Congress begins with art show and auction at Westin Gallery



Minister Dr. Visser and delegates

Yesterday, the first three-day Drug Abuse Congress 2012 began at the Westin Aruba Resort, which will continue through Thursday and Friday. The congress is hosting some of the most respected professionals in the field from Hol-

land and the Dutch Caribbean, and reports 350 delegates from all six Dutch islands are attending.

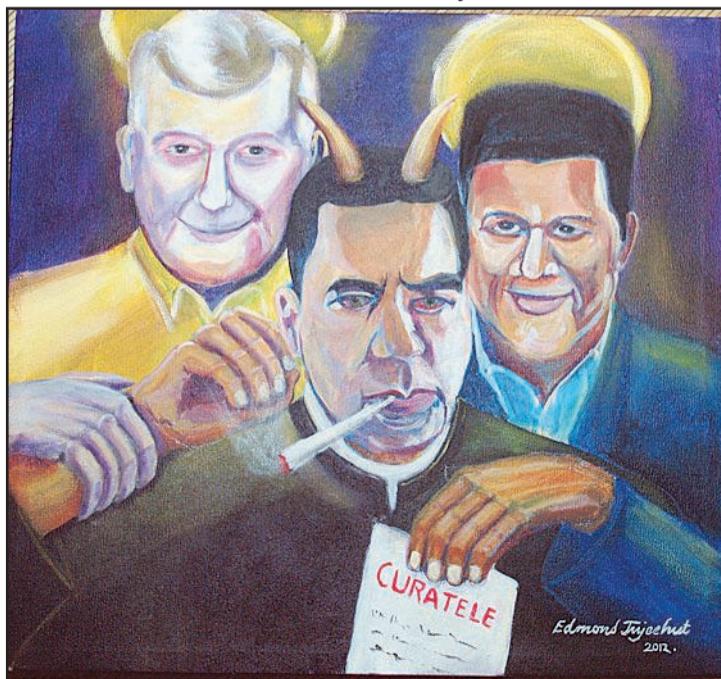
On the eve of the congress, a special exhibit opened at the Westin Art Gallery, with 22 island artists

contributing works dedicated to the concepts of addiction and rehabilitation. The exposition was organized by Jan van der Straten, former curator of the gallery, who is instrumental in conducting the current congress, and the reorganization of Aruba's drug rehabilitation programs.

Currently, several foundations are being brought under the umbrella of the Fundacion pa Maneho di Addiction Aruba, FMAA. This is to coordinate efforts in best customizing treatment and directing addicts to the foundation most suited to their situation. Rosita Otterspeer of FMAA expressed her gratitude to Jan and Minister of Public Health and Sport, Dr. Richard Visser, for their unstinting support of the foundation's efforts.

FMAA officers and congress organizers also present for the opening event were Majorie Godet, Arlo Franken, Shaitza Oliveira and Richenel Stamper. The work on display expressed a panorama of the emotional journey of addiction, from the deepest feelings of degradation and pain, to the triumph of getting "clean and sober." All proceeds from the auction and sale of the art will go towards assisting the FMAA in their work. The exhibition will remain on display at the Westin Art Gallery through tomorrow, the last day of the congress.

by Rosalie Klein



FMAA Staff and organizers of conference



ATA submits . . .

Continued from page 3

The regulations manual was produced in cooperation with Professor Kunneman who is very skilled in this area. Kunneman helped to give substance to the concept of the Sui Generes management structure. ATA is the first organization on the island to know this type of structure – Sui Generes, operating within the context and spirit of good governance.

The Minister was very pleased with the manual submitted and praised the organization for their excellent work of complying with, first of all, a budget submitted on schedule, a yearly financial statement, and now this regulations manual.

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Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored a very nice couple as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. The honorees were Mr. Denis and Mrs. Gabriela Troconis who are loyal visitors of the Divi Phoenix. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years. Denis and Gabriela have been coming to Aruba since they were children with their parents, long before they got married. That is why they love the island very much, the friendly people, nice climate and beautiful beaches. The certificate was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Jennifer representing the Aruba Divi Phoenix Beach Resort.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mexico's president pleads for help, new ideas in drug war

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Outgoing Mexican President Felipe Calderon pleaded with the United Nations yesterday to examine the "limits" of the war on drugs and weigh alternatives to the fight in which thousands die every year.

"I demand that the United Nations not only take part in, but that it lead, a discussion without prejudices ... that could bring us all to solutions that have new and efficient focuses," Calderon told the UN General Assembly.

In his last address to the world body before he steps

down December 1, Calderon charged that most countries have not owned up to the role they play in deadly organized drug crime, "the biggest cause of violent crime in the world."

The United Nations "must honestly examine, with academic rigor and global responsibility, what the policy alternatives could be -- specifically regulatory and market-based alternatives -- so that we can determine if they are really alternatives or not."

"That does not mean that we will be letting down our guard," warned Calderon.



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Ahmadinejad slams West's nuclear 'intimidation' at UN finale

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad yesterday accused the West of nuclear "intimidation" in his final speech to the UN General Assembly which was boycotted by the United

States and Israel.

But the Iranian president steered clear of the toxic remarks about Israel which have sparked mass walkouts at his previous seven appearances before the UN summit.

"Arms race and intimidation by nuclear weapons and weapons of mass-destruction by the hegemonic powers have become prevalent," Ahmadinejad said in a rare outburst in the rambling 35 minute speech.

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Egypt's Morsi warns Israel over 'law of the jungle' threats

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - Egypt's new president yesterday hit out at Israel over its veiled threats to attack Iran's nuclear facilities and the deadlock in the Middle East peace process.

President Mohamed Morsi received a rousing ovation for his first speech to the 193-member UN General Assembly since becoming Egypt's first civilian, democratically elected leader in June.

Without specifically mentioning Israel's undeclared nuclear arsenal, Morsi said the Middle East "no longer tolerates" any country's refusal to join the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty "especially if this is coupled with irresponsible policies or arbitrary threats."

"The acceptance by the international community of the principle of pre-emptiveness

or the attempt to legitimize it is in itself a serious matter and must be firmly confronted to avoid the prevalence of the law of the jungle," Morsi said.

The election of the Islamist politician has unsettled ties with Israel, which has refused to rule out a military strike on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Morsi also put the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ahead of the Syria war in the list of priorities he laid out before the General Assembly.

"The first issue which the world must exert all its efforts in resolving, on the basis of justice and dignity, is the Palestinian cause," Morsi said.

He said that UN resolutions on the conflict had not been implemented and that Palestinians "must also taste the fruits of freedom and dig-

nity" that other countries in the Arab region have won in the past year.

"It is shameful that the free world accepts, regardless of the justifications provided, that a member of the international community continues to deny the rights of a nation that has been longing for decades for independence," Morsi said.

"It is also disgraceful that settlement activities continue on the territories of these people."

The Palestinians have refused to hold direct talks with Israel for the past two years because of Israel's refusal to halt settlement activities in the occupied territories.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas are to address the General Assembly today.

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British judge freezes Abu Hamza extradition

LONDON (AFP) - A British judge yesterday halted the extradition of Abu Hamza to the United States on terror charges after the radical Islamist preacher lodged a last-ditch legal appeal.

The High Court will hear the legal challenge from the Egyptian-born cleric and a second terror suspect, Khaled Al-Fawwaz, on October 2, Britain's Judiciary Office said.

The European Court of Human Rights on Monday gave Britain the green light to deport Abu Hamza, Fawwaz and three other men, and British officials had said they expected to extradite them within two weeks.

But a high court judge yesterday "issued interim injunctions preventing their (Abu Hamza and Fawwaz) removal" pending a hearing in open court on their appeal, a Judiciary Office spokeswoman told AFP.

The hearing will take place next Tuesday before two senior judges, John Thomas and Duncan Ouseley, the spokeswoman added.

The grounds for the appeal by Abu Hamza and al-Fawwaz were not immediately clear and their lawyers did not return calls from AFP seeking comment.

Abu Hamza, the former imam of the Finsbury Park mosque in north London, is wanted in the United States on charges including setting up an Al-Qaeda-style training camp

for militants in the northwestern US state of Oregon.

The cleric, who has one eye and a hook for one hand, is also accused of sending money and recruits to Afghanistan's Taliban and Al-Qaeda, and of helping kidnappers in Yemen who abducted a party of Western tourists in 1998.

Britain's Home Office, or interior ministry, said it would continue to try to hand over the men as quickly as it could.

Abu Hamza, who is his mid-50s and whose real name is Kamel Mustafa Mustafa, was jailed in Britain for seven years in 2006 for inciting followers to murder non-believers in speeches on the streets of London.

He remains in prison.

Fawwaz was indicted in the US with late Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and 20 others for alleged involvement in, or support for, the bombing of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998.

The European Court of Human Rights announced on Monday that it had upheld its own earlier ruling, made on April 10, that approved Britain's extradition of Abu Hamza, Fawwaz, Syed Tahla Ahsan, Adel Abdul Bary and Babar Ahmad.

The court dismissed their claims that they would face degrading treatment because they would be sent to the notorious ADX supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, and could face multiple life sentences.



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Anglicans to choose new Archbishop of Canterbury

LONDON (AFP) - A British commission met on Wednesday to decide on a new Archbishop of Canterbury, the spiritual leader of the world's Anglicans, ahead of Rowan Williams' retirement in December.

The three-day meeting of the Crown Nominations Commission faces a huge task to find a new Church of England leader who can heal deep schisms among tens of millions of Anglicans worldwide over female and gay bishops.

The meeting ends on Friday but the new archbishop is likely to be named next week, the BBC reported.

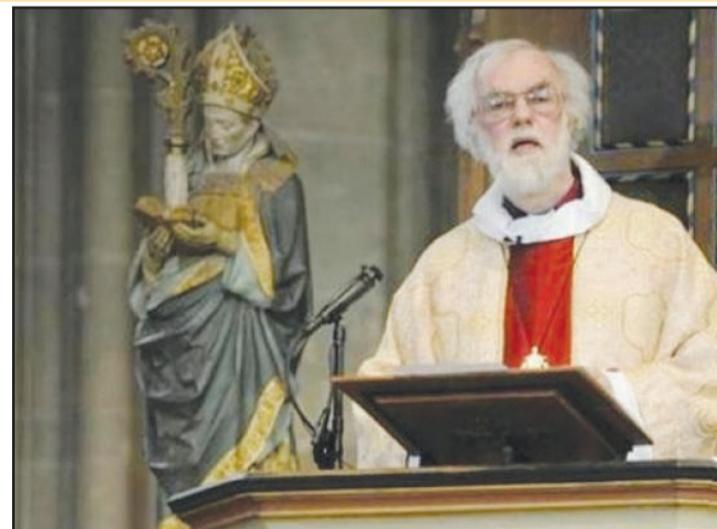


The decision must be signed off by Prime Minister David Cameron and officially approved by Queen Elizabeth II, who is the Supreme Governor of the Church of England as well as the British head of state.

The commission, which is meeting in an undisclosed location, has 16 voting members including both senior clerics and lay members and is chaired by a former British arts minister, Richard Luce.

Contenders for the post include veteran churchmen such as Archbishop of York John Sentamu, 63, who would be the first black Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop of London Richard Chartres, 65, and Bishop of Norwich Graham James, 61.

The commission is also thought to be considering younger bishops including Bishop of Coventry Christopher Cocksworth, 53, and Bishop of Durham Justin Welby, 56.



Williams, now 61, was appointed the 104th Archbishop of Canterbury in 2002, replacing George Carey.

He announced in March that he would take up a position as master of Magdalene College at Britain's prestigious Cambridge University in January 2013.



Message by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon



The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development emphasized that well-designed and well-managed tourism can make a significant contribution to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. One of the world's largest economic sectors, tourism is especially well-placed to promote environmental sustainability, green growth and our strug-

gle against climate change through its relationship with energy.

"Tourism and Sustainable Energy: Powering Sustainable Development" is the theme of this year's World Tourism Day, selected to advance the goals of the 2012 International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

Hundreds of millions of people around the world depend for income on this energy-intensive sector. Sustainable energy will allow tourism to continue to expand while mitigating its impact on the environment.

Many in the tourism industry have already shown leadership in developing and deploying clean energy solutions, cutting energy consumption and carbon emissions in some regions by up to 40 per cent through initiatives such as the Hotel Energy Solutions toolkit developed by the UN World Tourism Organization and the UN Environment Programme. Other concrete advances include the growing use of energy-efficient fuels in air travel, sustainable procurement strategies and increasingly popular carbon offsetting schemes.

Everyone has a role in sustainable tourism. I commend the tourism community for its growing commitment to sustainable energy. I also thank the tourists who play their part by off-setting their own carbon emissions, choosing ecologically friendly destinations and providers, or simply by postponing having their towels laundered. Every action counts. This year, one billion international tourists will travel to foreign destinations. Imagine what one act multiplied by one billion can do.

On this World Tourism Day, I appeal to all who work in and enjoy the benefits of this global sector to join in building a more sustainable future for all.

Indian Ocean's 2012 mega-quake broke the records

PARIS (AFP) - An 8.7 earthquake that struck west of Indonesia on April 11 was the biggest of its kind ever recorded and confirms suspicions that a giant tectonic plate is breaking up, scientists said..

The quake, caused by an unprecedented quadruple-fault rupture, gave Earth's crustal mosaic such a shock that it unleashed quakes around the world nearly a week later, they said.

The quake occurred around 500 kilometres (300 miles) west of Sumatra in the middle of the Indo-Australian plate, a piece of Earth's crust that spans Australia, the eastern Indian Ocean and the Indian sub-continent.

It was the biggest "strike-slip" earthquake ever recorded, meaning a fault which opens laterally rather than up or down, and the 10th biggest quake of any kind in the last century.

It was followed two hours later by an 8.2 event on another fault a little farther to the south, and both were felt from India to Australia.

Earthquakes of such intensity are typically "subduction" quakes, where one tectonic plate slides beneath another at a plate boundary, causing vertical movement that can displace the sea and unleash a tsunami.

The December 26 2004 9.1 quake off Sumatra, whose waves killed a quarter of a million people around the Indian Ocean, is one such example.

But the April 11 event caused no tsunamis because the movement was sideways. Fatalities, too, were few.

Taking a scalpel to what happened that day, the seismologists believe there was a near-simultaneous rupturing of at least four faults, stacked up and lying at right angles to one another.

They ripped open one by one, all within 160 seconds, in a process known by the French term "en échelon."

Even more remarkable, though, was where the event took place.

It occurred nowhere near a boundary between the plates which like a jigsaw puzzle comprise Earth's crust.

Instead, it occurred in the heart of the Indo-Australian plate, tearing a gash up to 40 metres (yards) wide and confirming long-held suspicions that the plate is fragmenting.

According to this theory, the process began roughly millions of years ago, and is caused by a pulling-apart of the plate: the western part is colliding with Asia, which stops its movement, while the eastern part is gliding beneath Sumatra.



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the tourist see what he has come to see.*

-- Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936) British journalist, novelist and poet.



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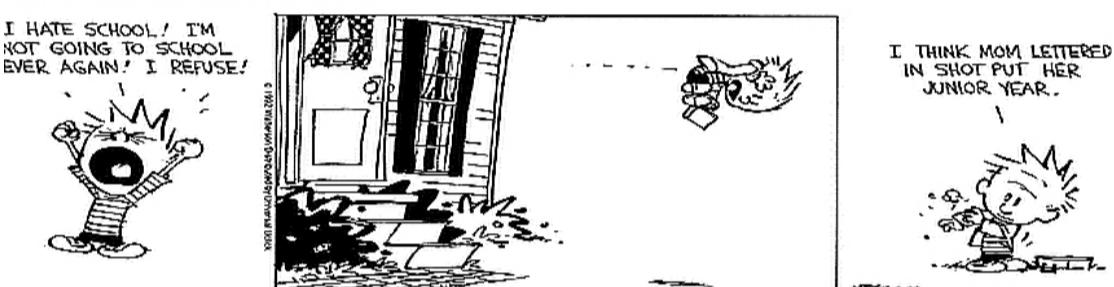
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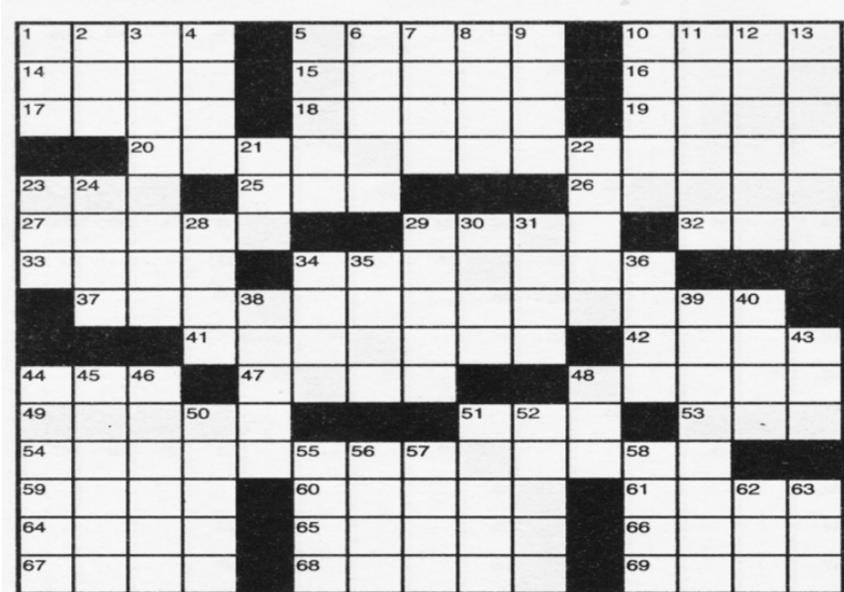
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ACROSS

- Oscar nominee's transport
- Extensive
- Slangy beer
- Cheese variety
- Actress Palmer
- Plexor's target
- Malevolent "Othello" character
- Cousteau's milieu
- "___ homo"
- "Isn't it good, ___"
- WWII area
- Likewise
- Parenthetical remark
- Having the gift of gab
- Iowa town



32. Conducted

- Lifetime Achievement
- Oscar winner Kazan
- Debarkation
- "Money ___"
- Polish surface
- Cool and collected
- Periodical, informally
- Actor Young of "Cousin Bette"
- Curls
- Map book
- Monkey's cousin
- Burro
- "Shake it up baby, ___"
- Cargo units
- Lariat
- Breach
- Ground: Ger.

DOWN

- Gusset
- Old card game
- Show mercy
- Tennyson heroine
- Aloha wreath
- Filmdom's Lupino
- Kathryn Grayson in "Show Boat"
- Melville novel
- Like overloaded fuses
- Shredded potatoes
- Cassini of fashion
- Kirghiz range
- Actress Merrill
- Swerves
- Sock couples
- Take the kinks out
- Crack a cipher
- Rated for the U.S. Open
- Manta ___
- Of the nose
- Summer in Paris
- Part of the Mennen line
- Author of "Perpetual Peace"
- Gayomart
- Soprano Benzell
- Robbie Knieve's dad
- Sleeping
- Ancient Finnish poem
- Wacky
- Perch for a poached egg
- Rat racer's respite
- Brothers since 1868
- Publishers' reading: abbr.
- Dull finishes
- Busy
- Billie's "Oz" role
- Actor Gorsey
- Valuable thing
- Late bloomer
- Stage
- Weaponry
- Lowest high tide
- Android on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"
- Implore
- Calendar abbr.
- Mogul Turner

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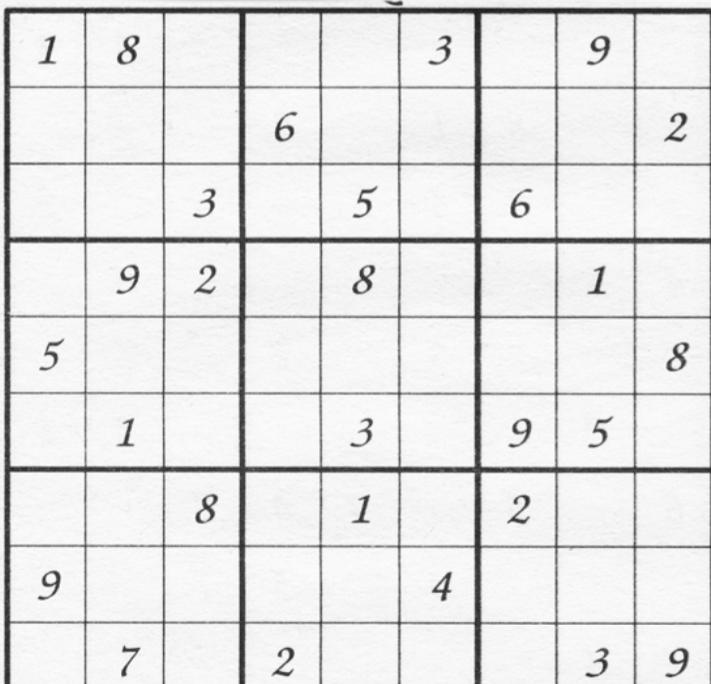
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Sudoku



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1	7	5	2	6	8	1	3	4
9	2	8	3	5	7	6	4	1
3	6	4	1	9	2	5	8	7
5	3	4	2	5	6	7	1	9
7	4	9	6	3	8	2	5	1
2	5	9	7	4	1	3	6	8
6	8	3	5	9	4	7	2	1
1	9	2	3	5	6	4	8	7
7	5	6	2	4	3	1	9	8

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A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Bailout spectre returns to haunt Spain

MADRID (AFP) - Spain's borrowing costs crept back up to danger levels and the stock market plunged yesterday, spooked by the specter of a full bailout and deeper economic suffering.

Pressure from Catalonia, which called snap elections in a drive for greater independence, added to the gloom as the Madrid government prepared to pass an austere 2013 budget with 39 billion euros (\$50 billion) in savings.

The government was due to adopt its 2013 austerity budget today and on Friday unveil an independent audit of its stricken banks to determine how much capital was needed to reinforce them from further shocks.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



The budget and audit "could potentially boost sentiment towards Spain and pave the way for a bailout deal to be agreed", analysts at Capital Economics said in a note.

"But Spain will still be left with a number of other major problems" in meeting its fiscal targets, securing its banks and fielding pressure from Catalonia, they added.

Before deciding whether to ask for a bailout, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy insists on knowing what conditions European authorities would attach, apprehensive of having economic cuts dictated to him.

But the Wall Street Journal yesterday quoted Rajoy as saying that if Spain's borrowing costs were "too high for too long", then "I can assure you 100 percent that I would ask for this bailout."

The economic backdrop was grim, with figures from the Bank of Spain yesterday showing the country's recession deepening with economic output sliding fast.

"Available data for the third quarter of the year suggest output continued to fall at a significant pace, in an environment in which financial tension remained at very high levels," the bank said in a monthly report.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 09/26/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.79	1.81	1.83
Britiain	GBP	2.81	2.86	2.92
Switzerland	CHF	189.09	189.81	190.61
Netherlands	EUR	226.71	228.78	231.08
Sweden	SEK	25.93	26.65	27.45
Denmark	DKK	29.72	30.44	31.24
Norway	NOK	29.94	30.66	31.46
Japan	JPY	227.12	229.19	231.49
(per 10,000)				
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European Parliament moves to fight market speculation

BRUSSELS (AFP) - The European Parliament yesterday agreed plans to improve financial market transparency and end speculation, notably deal-making blamed for volatile food prices.

The assembly's economic affairs committee unanimously agreed -- by 45 votes in favour -- new rules based on a proposal last year by the EU executive to update European Union regulation on markets in financial instruments, known as MiFID.

Under the agreement, market players and trading operators would be required to lay down clear rules and procedures for fair and orderly trading, objective criteria for executing orders efficiently, and transparent criteria for determining which financial instruments may be traded via their systems.

The rules notably would

provide a structure for Organised Trading Facilities (OTF), which are currently not regulated.

To fight speculation of food products, the rules also limit the number of positions traders can take in a set time on commodities on the derivatives market.

The MEPs also tightened up a European Commission proposal on high-frequency algorithmic trading, in which computers trade millions of orders per second, with little or no human intervention.

This technology can be used to check what buyers would pay, with a view to exploiting tiny price differences.

The committee voted provisions to ensure all orders be valid for at least 500 milliseconds, meaning they cannot be cancelled or modified during that time.

All firms and trading ve-

nues would also have to ensure that trading systems are resilient and prepared to deal with sudden increases in order flows or market stresses. These could include "circuit breakers" to suspend trading.

The Socialists and Democrats group in parliament dubbed the agreement "a very important step forward to increase transparency and to ensure a smooth price formation process on European exchanges."

NGOs, including Oxfam and Friends of the Earth, welcomed the plan but said it continued to fall short of what was needed to tackle food speculation.

The rules will need to be adopted by a parliament plenary, probably in November, before being submitted to EU finance ministers who will have the final say.

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Strong quake forces tourists to flee hotels in Mexico

LA PAZ (AFP) - A strong 6.2-magnitude earthquake rattled Mexico's Baja California peninsula Tuesday, forcing more than 1,000 tourists to flee their hotels and take refuge on beaches and in gardens.

No damage or victims were immediately reported after the earthquake and an aftershock struck the west coast region.

The quake was centered 75 kilometers (47 miles) north of La Paz, the capital of the state of Baja California Sur, at a

shallow depth of 10.1 kilometers and off the coast in the Gulf of California, according to the US Geological Survey.

Mexico's National Seismology Service measured the tremor at 6.0 on the Richter scale at 6:45 pm (2345 GMT) and reported a 4.0-magnitude aftershock 37 minutes later at a distance of 11 kilometers from the same location.

More than 1,000 tourists, most of them foreigners, were evacuated from their hotels in the resort town of Los Cabos to stand on beaches or in gardens while authorities checked for damage to the buildings.

"In some hotels, security personnel evacuated the tourists in just one hour," said Los Cabos Civil Protection chief Wenceslao Petit Jacinto.

A spokesman for the Los Cabos and La Paz airports said there were no special flights being chartered for tourists.



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Thailand to sell generic Viagra drug: officials

BANGKOK (AFP) - Thailand has approved an affordable generic version of the anti-impotence drug Viagra to go on sale next week as the country looks to combat rampant counterfeit production, officials said Wednesday.

The Thai diamond-shaped little blue pill, which resembles the original produced by US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, is called "Sidegra" and will be available on prescription across the country on October 1.

Priced at 25 baht (80 US cents) per pill, Thailand's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it will be ten times cheaper than full-price

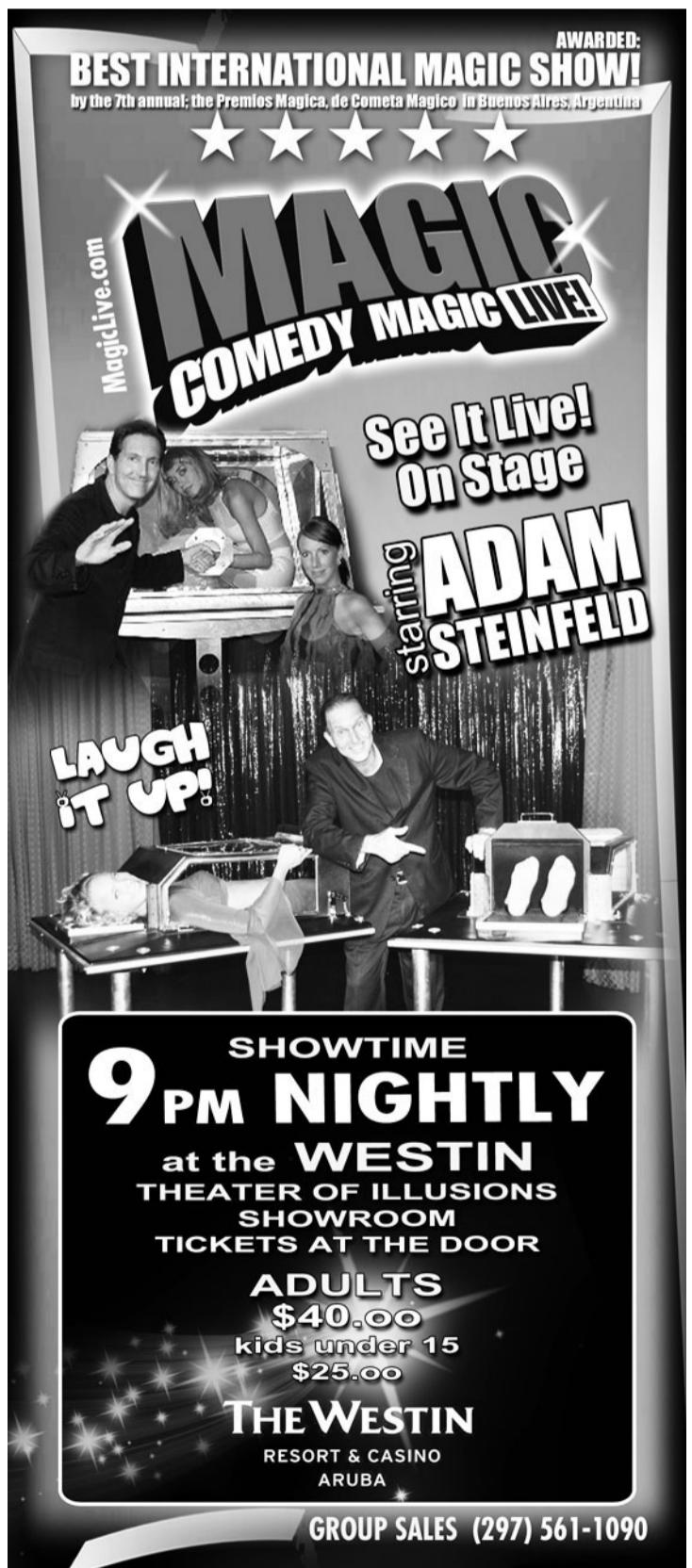
Viagra.

"This measure will solve widespread production of fake drugs by increasing accessibility to the legal version," FDA secretary general Pipat Yingseree said in a statement.

The release said Pfizer had since looked to discount its pills by 30 percent to "co-operate with the government on curbing fake drugs".

No one from Pfizer's offices in Thailand was available for comment.

An FDA official said the US company's patent to produce the anti-impotence drug had expired in Thailand.



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S. America's Pacific coast eyes tsunami warning system

LIMA (AFP) - Officials from countries along South America's Pacific coast met at a UN-

ESCO-sponsored event in Peru's capital Tuesday to design a tsunami early-warning

system.

Experts from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile -- all countries sitting on the seismically active Pacific ring of fire -- included oceanographers, seismologists, and natural disaster response officials.

They are ironing out a protocol expected to be named "Standard Operating Procedures for Tsunami Alert Communications in the Southeastern Pacific."

"UNESCO has been working on this regional program among the four countries so that they share regional, national and local strategies to reduce risks in coastal areas," said Fernando Berrios, an official with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

One of the South American nations' goals is to link their national early warning alert systems.

In February 2010, a massive earthquake hit Chile's central Maule region, south of Valparaiso, generating tsunami waves, killing more than 500 people and causing billions of dollars in damage.

Italian science drone discovers marijuana farm



ROME (AFP) - An unmanned drone analysing earthquake damage in countryside near the city of Ravenna, northeast Italy, made an unexpected discovery -- a marijuana plantation hidden in some bushes. "There was a real marijuana farm in the countryside near Ravenna on abandoned land and hidden by thick vegetation," the police said in a statement. Police said they had also found "an accurate system" for irrigation and illumination and seized a total of 182 plants. The remote-controlled drone was intended "to verify the stability of buildings damaged by the earthquake" in May 2012.

H.K. tycoon offers fortune to marry off gay daughter

HONG KONG (AFP) - A Hong Kong tycoon has offered a \$65 million "marriage bounty" to any man who can win the heart of his lesbian daughter, a report said..

Cecil Chao announced the financial reward of HK\$500 million after his daughter, Gigi, married her same-sex partner of seven years in France earlier this year, the South China Morning Post reported.

"I don't mind whether he is rich or poor. The important thing is that he is generous and

kind hearted," 76-year-old Chao was quoted as saying.

"Gigi is a very good woman with both talents and looks. She is devoted to her parents, is generous and does volunteer work," he added.

Same-sex marriages are not recognised in Hong Kong, a socially conservative Chinese city where homosexuality was decriminalised in 1991.

Chao is well known in Hong Kong's social circles and regularly appears at public events with his latest young girlfriend.

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Football: UEFA defends 24-team Euros

WARSAW (AFP) - UEFA's controversial decision to expand the European championships from 16 to 24 teams makes sense because the quality of the game is rising, its outgoing technical director Andy Roxburgh said on Wednesday.

Roxburgh - who during his management career steered Scotland to the finals of Euro 1992, which involved just eight nations - underlined that the same debate raged back then about the supposed watering-down of the showcase tournament.

"That was the last of the eight-team tournaments. And of course everybody said at the time, 'Oh, what will it be like now we're doubling the numbers to 16 teams,'" he told reporters after a three-day meeting of European coaches in Warsaw.

"Well, the Euro that was played in England in 1996

with 16 teams was very good. So the fears weren't founded. And all I would say here is that we're now going to this increased number as standards in Europe are rising all the time," he added.

Roxburgh - on the point of retiring from the UEFA post he had held since 1994 - said that football's powers that be see clear benefits to adding eight more teams at Euro 2016 in France.

"Benefits first of all to allow more teams to experience that, because they think the standards are high enough to cope with that number of teams in the final. And clearly there's the whole packaging, the marketing," he said.

The quadrennial European championships are UEFA's main income-driver, in particular from broadcast rights.

But with 53 nations making up UEFA's membership, critics suggest it will be too easy

for the undeserving to get under the wire, leading to poor-quality matches.

Roxburgh rejected that.

"If you ask I think nearly any coach, when they go to play in some of the so-called smaller countries now, they don't look forward to doing it," he said.

"Some of the small countries will never be Spain. But coach education and development, and player development, and all these things going on in Europe, all of that is helping to raise standards.

Football: Spanish treble makes life harder, Del Bosque says

WARSAW (AFP) - Notching up three back-to-back titles has made Spain's life tougher as they eye qualification for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, their coach Vicente del Bosque said on Wednesday.

No longer having anything to prove is actually a problem for the record-setting winners of Euro 2008, the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, their iconic boss underlined.

"We have greater responsibility because of our past titles, and it's going to be more difficult to maintain the com-

petitive spirit among players," del Bosque told reporters after a three-day meeting of European coaches in Warsaw.

"And it is going to cost us more because the opponents are going to prepare their players," he said, with beating or even drawing with Spain having become the benchmark of success.

However, del Bosque insisted, La Furia Roja are treating their campaign to reach the 2014 World Cup no differently from past qualifying runs, and even dream of clinching the trophy again.

"As sports people we will try to qualify," he said.

"We want to go to Brazil and we are going to try to win of course."



Yankees thrash Twins 8-2 to keep lead in AL East. The Yankees, who lost to the Twins on Tuesday night, played without third baseman Alex Rodriguez, who has a bruised left foot. Derek Jeter's 19-game hitting streak ended after he walked and scored in the third but finished 0 for 4. CC Sabathia struck out 10 batters over eight innings for New York to help the Yankees stretch their AL East lead to two games over Baltimore. The Yankees visit the Blue Jays for four games starting today and Baltimore, after an off day, plays Boston at home this weekend.

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NFL: Replacement refs threaten US football season

WASHINGTON (AFP) - American football fans were in an uproar Tuesday over a labor dispute that has seen replacement referees botch calls and sow heartache among millions of followers of the most popular US sport.

The National Football League (NFL) last year survived a players' lock-out that threatened to shut down the entire season.

But sports analysts are warning that the game could be in even greater jeopardy this year after a profusion of uncalled penalties and blown calls by the temporary referees officiating for the 32-team league.

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The lockout of veteran referees threatens to "irreparably damage" the game, warned sports columnist Bill Plaschke of the Los Angeles Times, who urged NFL owners to give in to demands from the striking referees for a pay increase.

Life in much of America comes to a standstill every Sunday as the country focuses on the exploits of the helmeted, armor-clad gladiators of the bruising sport.

Just three weeks into the 16-game NFL regular season, no one expected such widespread national despair over the absence of the veteran officials.

Since NFL owners shut the referees out and hired less experienced temporary officials, the quality of play has eroded

in the eyes of most football fans.

The level of sportsmanship also has suffered, as players take advantage of the relative inexperience of the temporary referees to take cheap shots at their opponents on the field.

In some cases, players have brawled openly with members from the opposing team, knowing that the temporary refs were unlikely to intervene.

Perhaps even more troubling are the abundant mistakes that have changed the momentum of games, narrowed the margins of victory, and in a couple of cases, even changed the outcome of the contest.

France immortalises Zidane headbutt with 5-metre statue



PARIS (AFP) - The infamous headbutt that French football legend Zinedine Zidane landed on an Italian during a World Cup final has been transformed into a giant statue and displayed in front of the Pompidou Centre in Paris. The bronze work of art, simply titled "Headbutt", was Wednesday attracting crowds of tourists and locals who jostled to have their photos taken in front of the five-metre (16-foot) statue. The sculpture is by Algerian artist Adel Abdessemed, subject of a retrospective exhibition in the Pompidou from October 3 until next January. Zidane, who holds legendary status in France as a member of the national teams that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, was sent off in the 2006 World Cup final for headbutting Marco Materazzi in the chest. That was the then France captain's last ever professional match as a player and he later claimed he had reacted to slurs the Italian directed against his sister and mother.

Football: United beat Newcastle, holders Liverpool advance



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (C) vies for the ball with Newcastle United's Fabricio Coloccini (2nd R)

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester United moved into the League Cup fourth round with a 2-1 win over Newcastle, while holders Liverpool fought back to seal a 2-1 victory at West Bromwich Albion on Wednesday.

United, looking to win the League Cup for the fifth time, made a host of changes from the side that won at Liverpool on Sunday.

However, they still fielded a strong side including Wayne Rooney, back from a month out with a thigh injury, and Darren Fletcher, who was starting for the first time in 10 months after recovering from a bowel condition.

At the Hawthorns, Brendan Rodgers' Liverpool made a terrible start when Australian goalkeeper Brad Jones spilled

a free-kick and Gabriel Tamas pounced to score from close range in the third minute.

Arsenal's north London rivals Tottenham brushed aside League One side Carlisle with a 3-0 victory at Brunton Park.

Andre Villas-Boas made a host of changes to the Spurs side that beat QPR on Sunday, but still couldn't find a place for France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris, with Carlo Cudicini starting in goal.

Norwich paid tribute to John Bond, the club's second longest serving manager who passed away aged 79 on Wednesday, with a 1-0 win over League One side Doncaster at Carrow Road.

Reading came from behind to clinch a dramatic 3-2 win over QPR at Loftus Road.

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Cycling: In-form Contador wins Italy's most venerable race

ROME (AFP) - Spain's two-time Tour de France champion Alberto Contador broke away 800 metres from the finish to win the Milan-Turin one-day race on top of the Superga hill in Turin on Wednesday.

The 29-year-old, who won the Tour of Spain earlier this month in his first major race since returning from a two-year doping ban, responded to an attack by Italy's Diego Ulissi in the final two kilometres and broke clear to win on

the steep finish to the summit of Superga.

"It wasn't easy to race again after a very tough Tour of Spain, but now I know that I still have some energy left in my legs," said Contador, who also raced unsuccessfully in both the world time-trial and world road race last week.

Contador, who will compete in one more race this season, this weekend's Tour of Lombardy, dedicated his victory to compatriot Victor

Cabedo, who died in an accident while training last week.

"I dedicate my win to all of my teammates and to someone who has been in my thoughts since the World Championships, Victor Cabedo," he said.

"Wherever he may be, this win is for him."

Sweden's Fredrik Kessiakoff, of the Astana team, came third in front of another Spaniard, Joaquin Rodriguez.

The Milan-Turin race is

Italy's oldest cycling race, having first been staged in 1876.

However, before this year it had not been held since 2007.

Superga hill is remembered as the scene of the air crash in May 1949 that wiped out the great Torino football team of the era.

The Torino team had won four successive Italian league titles from 1946-49.

**Baseball:
Reds
manager
Baker
suffered
minor stroke**

CINCINNATI (AFP) - Cincinnati Reds manager Dusty Baker says he suffered a minor stroke last week on top of being treated for a heart problem.

Before last Wednesday's game against the Chicago Cubs, Baker was admitted to a Chicago-area hospital and diagnosed with an irregular heartbeat.

The 63-year-old Baker says he also suffered a "mini-stroke" while being discharged on Friday. He received immediate treatment by hospital doctors who were able to minimize the effects of the stroke.

Baker returned to Cincinnati on Sunday, and his condition has improved dramatically, he said.

"I'm feeling much better, and it's great being back here in Cincinnati," Baker said Tuesday. "I look forward to getting back to the dugout."

Doctors say they expect Baker to make a full recovery and return to the managerial duties, possibly sometime next week.

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